

REMARKS

1. Status of the Claims

In the office action of October 6, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-54. In the response filed on November 23, 2004, applicants canceled claim 39. In this supplemental response, applicants have amended claims 38, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48, and 49, have canceled claim 44, and have added new claims 55 and 56.

The Examiner pointed out in a telephone call on January 24, 2005, that there were two claims pending in this application which were numbered as claim 44. Applicants have corrected this inadvertent error by canceling claim 44 (i.e., both claims that had number 44), and adding new claims 55 and 56, which correspond to the two canceled claims, but with corrected claim dependency. The amendments to claims 42, 48, and 49 make minor clarifications that were requested by the Examiner. The amendments to claims 38, 43, 45, and 46 correct claim dependencies. No new matter is added by the amendments.

After entry of the amendments, claims 1-38, 40-43, and 45-56 are pending in this application.

2. Conclusion

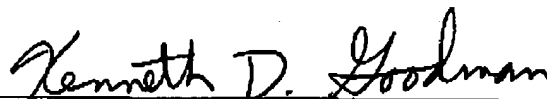
Applicants believe that claims 1-38, 40-43, and 45-56 are in condition for allowance.

Please call the undersigned attorney if there are any questions regarding this response.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON, P.C.
CUSTOMER NO. 23720

January 24, 2005



Kenneth D. Goodman
Reg. No. 30,460
10333 Richmond, Suite 1100
Houston, Texas 77042
(713) 934-4094
(713) 934-7011 (fax)

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS